Technical and Bibliographic Notes / Notes techniques et bibliographiques

The Institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming, are checked below.

L'Institut a microfilmé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.

- [ ] Coloured covers/ Couverture de couleur
- [x] Covers damaged/ Couverture endommagée
- [x] Covers restored and/or laminated/ Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée
- [ ] Cover title missing/ Le titre de couverture manque
- [ ] Coloured maps/ Cartes géographiques en couleur
- [ ] Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black)/ Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)
- [ ] Coloured plates and/or illustrations/ Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur
- [ ] Bound with other material/ Relié avec d'autres documents
- [ ] Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion along interior margin/ La reliure serrée peut causer de l'ombre ou de la distorsion le long de la marge intérieure
- [ ] Blank leaves added during restoration may appear within the text. Whenever possible, these have been omitted from filming/ Il se peut que certaines pages blanches ajoutées lors d'une restauration apparaissent dans le texte, mais, lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont pas été filmées.
- [ ] Additional comments:/ Commentaires supplémentaires:

- [ ] Coloured pages/ Pages de couleur
- [x] Pages damaged/ Pages endommagées
- [x] Pages restored and/or laminated/ Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées
- [ ] Pages discoloured, stained or foxed/ Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées
- [x] Pages detached/ Pages détachées
- [ ] Showthrough/ Transparence
- [x] Quality of print varies/ Qualité inégale de l'impression
- [ ] Continuous pagination/ Pagination continue
- [ ] Includes index(es)/ Comprend un (des) index

  Title on header taken from:/ Le titre de l'en-tête provient:
- [ ] Title page of issue/ Page de titre de la livraison
- [ ] Caption of issue/ Titre de départ de la livraison
- [ ] Masthead/ Générique (périodiques) de la livraison

This item is filmed at the reduction ratio checked below/ Ce document est filmé au taux de réduction indiqué ci-dessous.

10X	14X	18X	22X	26X	30X
12X	16X	20X	24X	28X	32X

The copy filmed here has been reproduced thanks to the generosity of:

The United Church of Canada Archives
Victoria University Archives

The images appearing here are the best quality possible considering the condition and legibility of the original copy and in keeping with the filming contract specifications.

Original copies in printed paper covers are filmed beginning with the front cover and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression, or the back cover when appropriate. All other original copies are filmed beginning on the first page with a printed or illustrated impression, and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression.

The last recorded frame on each microfiche shall contain the symbol → (meaning "CONTINUED"), or the symbol ▽ (meaning "END"), whichever applies.

Maps, plates, charts, etc., may be filmed at different reduction ratios. Those too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom, as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method:

L'exemplaire filmé fut reproduit grâce à la générosité de:

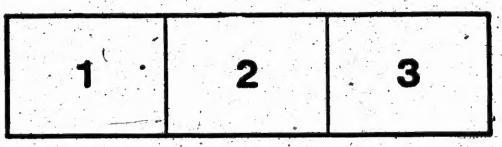
The United Church of Canada Archives
Victoria University Archives

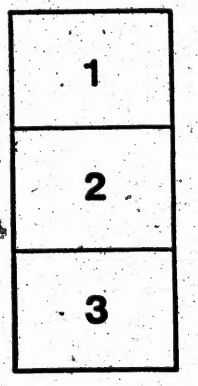
Les images suivantes ont été reproduites avec le plus grand soin, compte tenu de la condition et de la netteté de l'exemplaire filmé, et en conformité avec les conditions du contrat de filmage.

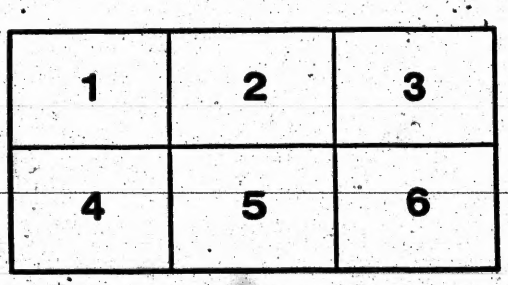
Les exemplaires originaux dont la couverture en papier est imprimée sont filmés en commençant par le premier plat et en terminant soit par la dernière page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration, soit par le second plat, selon le cas. Tous les autres exemplaires originaux sont filmés en commençant par la première page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration et en terminant par la dernière page qui comporte une telle empreinte.

Un des symboles suivants apparaîtra sur la dernière image de chaque microfiche, selon le cas: le symbole → signifie "A SUIVRE", le symbole ▽ signifie "FIN".

Les cartes, planches, tableaux, etc., peuvent être filmés à des taux de réduction différents. Lorsque le document est trop grand pour être reproduit en un seul cliché, il est filmé à partir de l'angle supérieur gauche, de gauche à droite, et de haut en bas, en prenant le nombre d'images nécessaire. Les diagrammes suivants illustrent la méthode.







Pam
TM
V1T19

THE

Home Department

....OF THE

Sunday School

WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES

By W. H. WITHROW.

WILLIAM DUNCAN, PH.D.
Founder of the Sunday School Home Department.

WILLIAM BRIGGS, Publisher,
29-33 Richmond Street West,
TORONTO, ONT.

Montreal: C. W. COATES.
Halifax: S. F. HUESTIS.

PRICE, 5 CENTS EACH; PER DOZEN, 50 CENTS.

THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

WHAT IT IS, AND WHAT IT DOES.*

The Sunday-school system is entering upon a period of new development. It is sharing the trend of the times. It is feeling the pervasive influence of the divine leaven which is leavening the whole world. It is entering upon a great extension movement which, in the providence of God, shall have larger sweep and greater range than anything yet attained.

Dr. Wm. Duncan, whose portrait we give, is the chief organizer of the Home Department. Its modest beginning and remarkable history are given at length in the article from which this is abridged.

Dr. Hazard thus defines this great movement:

"The purpose of the Home Department is to secure, through associated effort in connection with the Sunday-school, a general and systematic study of the Scriptures."

The need of such study he thus urges:

"The Bible does not have the place in the home which it ought to have. In families generally it is an unstudied and almost unread volume. The newspaper, the magazine, the novel crowd it out. Wherever the Bible is studied the home is sweetened and purified. Better a half-hour of close study than a dozen hours of superficial reading, or reading which has merely for its object the perusal of the whole Bible in a specified time."

Bishop Vincent thus emphasizes the importance of the Home Department:

"Sometimes people who want to go to Sunday-school cannot. Distance hinders. Weather hinders. Illness hinders. To those people the stay-at-home school is a blessing. It passes the time away swiftly and pleasantly. It takes people 'out of themselves.' It prevents gloominess and melancholia. It brings good company into the house—prophets and apostles, kings and angels, and the Christ himself. It opens great windows that give far-reaching perspectives. A Sunday-school at home is a great thing for a home. Let us have a country full of such schools. Think of the new element put into every-day life by that school—the consciences quickened, the interest in divine things awakened, the better literature distributed, and the best religious work carried on. Let us commend the home school as a plan to be made effective. Test it! Test it at once! Begin at your home—whether you, the reader of these lines, be superintendent, teacher, or pupil. Look up neglected children or those who for any reason do not go to Sunday-school. Find a place—somebody's kitchen or parlour. Appoint a meeting. Get lesson and other papers. Begin!"

In further illustration of the benefit of the Home Department Dr. Hazard describes the classes for whom it is specially designed.

THE SHUT-INS.

"(1) The Shut-ins. There are the aged and infirm. It is pitiful to think how much they are left to themselves.

* Abridged from an article in the "Methodist Magazine and Review" for May, 1898.

This article is based on an admirable work, entitled "Home Classes, or the Home Department of the Sunday-school: Its History, Purpose and Plan, Organization, Methods, Requisites and Difficulties." By M. C. Hazard, Ph.D. Boston: Congregational Sunday-school and Publishing Society. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, cloth, 50 cts. net. Paper, 25 cts. net.

In many a home they simply occupy a corner. They are made to feel that their days of usefulness are entirely gone by. It is hard so to be left out of everything. They will be rejoiced to know that they still can be associated with others and have a place with them. This knowledge will do much to dissipate their loneliness and increase their self-respect. Already it has brought joy and comfort to many

"Time goes slowly by to the sick. The tendency with them is to morbid dwelling upon their disease. They should be given something to do, not beyond their powers, which is cheerful and stimulating, and which will take them out of themselves. A little work each day upon the lesson, as strength will permit, and the leaden-footed moments will take on wings. If one recovers, it will be to greater usefulness; and if one dies, those lessons will illuminate the valley of the shadow of death.

"Then there are the mothers who are kept at home by their little children and their household duties. Their never-ending round of tasks becomes almost unbearable drudgery unless the heart and the mind are stimulated. For them the time taken for Bible study is an absolute gain. They will be the fresher and the stronger for it. When the heart is cheered, duties become light. And then, too, they will be better mothers for so doing—kinder, more patient, more loving, wiser. For the sake of the children and the whole household they should be disciples of Christ.

"There is usually no opportunity for the servants to attend the Sabbath-school, The Home Department offers to them the opportunity of studying the Sunday-school lessons. Thus the parlour and the kitchen may be associated together, and each be the better for the fact.

THE SHUT-OUTS.

"(2) The Shut-outs. There are the commercial travellers, the railroad conductors, brakemen, engineers, newsboys, railway postal clerks, telegraph operators, hotel clerks, drug clerks, steamer officers and employees, army officers and soldiers, civil engineers and their assistants, boatmen, etc., etc. Whether he is on the rail or the ocean or in camp he can take his Quarterly and soon put himself into sympathetic connection with those at home.

"Some families are situated so far from church and Sunday-school that they cannot attend either service, or more than one. Others are in small communities where there are no church or Sunday-school privileges, or live in localities where they are isolated from all the benefits of society. To such families the Home Department is an inestimable boon. It brings them into connection with thousands of others. They feel the impulse of the spiritual life which throbs in the church and Sunday-school. This mental and moral stimulus is just what they need. It is like bringing into the home a telegraph wire which connects it with the great world without, though it may be upon some lonely mountain top or in some unfrequented vale."

A corps of Home Department visitors going over the field once every quarter is of incalculable assistance to the pastor and advantage to the church. Dr. Hazard gives a number of touching illustrations of the benediction thus brought to the aged, the sick, the lonely, the forgotten. In one Home Department nine persons over seventy years of age are studying the lessons; in another an old lady of ninety-seven, and in another a man of ninety-six.

Especially do invalids welcome it. One lady said, "You don't know how I feel when I hear the bell ring on Sunday morning; I want so much to go to church."

Another said, "I thank you for helping me to study God's Word. I have found Christ, and I want to join the church."

Another, on her dying bed, said: "Tell my pastor that my home study record is full, up to date."

This Department reaches out its arms of love and sympathy and embraces those who have no homes. Dr. Hazard mentions one class twelve of whose number were in mountain camps ninety miles away. "It takes some correspondence to sustain such a Department, but how welcome it must be to those lonely miners!" Another class in Connecticut has in its membership eight persons who have removed to Utah. Mothers can by this means keep in touch with their children who, in our migratory modern life, have moved far from home.

A Sunday-school in Dakota started a Home Department through a stage driver, who offered to deliver the lesson

helps and papers to any along his route who would join.

But does this Home Department lessen the attendance and influence of the Sunday-school? Quite the reverse. The following are testimonies on this subject:

"It invariably tends to the upbuilding of the Sunday-school in membership, in interest, and in power."

"The inevitable result of awakening interest in Bible study at home seems to be to bring to Sunday-school all who can come."

A theological student found that there were ninety-six persons in the Sunday-school. Organizing a Home Department, one year afterward the statistics of the school were as follows: In the main school, 116; in the Home Department, 136; total, 252.

RESULTS.

The most hallowed results often follow this home teaching. A man so given up to drink that he attempted suicide, while confined to bed from his injuries was induced to join the Home Department. His study of the Bible led to his conversion, to his victory over his depraved appetite, and to his joining the Methodist Church.

Not seldom, instead of drunkenness and wife-beating, the Home Department has brought concord and love.

A backslider, restored to the favour of God, when dying exclaimed: "God bless the man who first thought of the Home Class!"

No element is more vital than the quarterly visitor. The visitor is generally a young lady of leisure and culture and winsome ways, who first secures the promise of the Home Department scholar to spend, at least, half an hour in the study of the Scriptures every week, and then makes periodical visits to receive reports, help with difficulties, and distribute the lesson literature. The genial influence of such visits to the homes of the poor and neglected, or those who are shut out from social intercourse by sickness or isolation, is in itself an unspeakable benefit. It is an exhibition of Christian altruism that overcomes prejudice and wins confidence. It is a proof that the churches are not mere social clubs of the well-to-do, but that they seek to remember the forgotten, to visit the neglected, and to benefit the needy.

The intellectual stimulus of such study upon even sluggish minds is very great. They feel the inspiration of keeping step with the great army, who are every week studying the same chapter of the Bible. They acquire a new interest in the greatest classic of all the ages, and many are led to reformed lives.

One of the most striking results of the Home Department is the way in which it helps the pastor in his work, and thus benefits the whole church. The visitors can find out those who have membership letters from other churches, but have neglected to present them; those who are concerned about their salvation, but are too timid to make it known; those who are in trouble through sickness, or sorrow, or sin; those who can be developed into Christian workers in the Sunday-school, the League or Endeavour Society, or other forms of Christian work.

The pastor, too, may greatly help the Home Department. He can initiate the movement. He can organize one in connection with his own church and school. He can commend it in his pastoral visits to business men, to the aged, the infirm, the invalids, the mothers, servants, nurses, etc. He can preach upon it, he can mention it in public prayer, he can encourage its workers, and can in many ways identify himself with it.

The following are testimonies of pastors as to its importance:

Rev. R. E. Burton, of Syracuse, N.Y., says: "We believe in it first, last, and all the time. I do not think there is a single department of church work in which results are more easily, quickly, and largely realized. If pastors only knew the advantages of such a department, they would at once introduce it into their churches."

Rev. Dr. Hallock, of Rochester, N.Y., says: "Another feature is the co-operation secured between the parents and the Sunday-school teachers. Parents through the Home Department become interested in the Sunday-school lessons, and studying them themselves also teach them to their children, and are interested in them and their studies, while before they paid no attention, but turned the children over entirely to the Sunday-school teacher."

The requisites for introducing the Home Department are very simple. A few cards of explanation, the Sunday-school Quarterly, which can be had for five cents, an envelope for receiving voluntary contributions and making re-

turns.* These contributions almost always exceed the cost of supplying literature for the classes, and leave a handsome balance for missionary or other objects.

BENEFITS.

Dr. Hazard thus summarizes the benefits which are conferred by the Home Department:

"1. It increases attendance upon the main school. In almost every instance the Home Department becomes a feeder to the main school.

"2. It furnishes an effective method for evangelizing the field covered by a church. A corps of visitors regularly canvassing its territory is a great reinforcement to the church.

"3. It comforts and helps invalids.

"4. It recovers backsliders. The effect of home study of the Bible is to bring them back again into the church.

"5. It develops family religion. The members of a family cannot study the Bible together without being brought face to face with those questions which relate to their soul's salvation.

"6. It increases church attendance. Interest in Bible study is always followed by an interest in the services of the church.

"7. It develops Christian workers. Nothing is better adapted to make Christians effective labourers for Christ than to appoint them as visitors in the Home Department. The churches need this agency for its splendid discipline. It furnishes something specific for the members of a church to do, which is within their power, and which will be productive of great results.

"Wherever it has been thoroughly tried, the Home Department has been found to be a great evangelistic agency. It is calculated to reach those individuals and families who are without the Gospel in a Gospel land, and for whom the church is responsible. The plan is simple, inexpensive, and effective. By all means adopt it."

GROWTH IN CANADA.

It is only four years since the Home Classes have been enumerated in our Sunday-school statistics, although the Home Department has been cultivated for a considerably longer time. In 1895 we reported 1,856 members in this Department; in 1896 we reported 3,119, and in 1897, 5,435. This is a very rapid increase, and it is expected that the returns for 1898 will be greatly in advance.

Our Sunday-schools in the last quadrennium report an increase of 26,496, or over ten per cent. on the previous quadrennium. Yet there is room for a much greater increase. We have 4,455 preaching appointments. At every one of these we ought to have a school, or at least a Home Department. Yet we have only 3,307 schools, leaving 1,148 appointments without either Methodist school or Home Department, in either summer or winter.*

Moreover, the statistics report only 2,046 schools as open throughout the entire year, leaving 1,261, chiefly in the remote and isolated places, where, on account of stress of weather or bad roads, the school must be interrupted during the winter. Often it is difficult to reorganize them in the spring. The connection of the lessons is lost, and their value and the interest in them becomes greatly impaired.

Here the Home Department may be of special value. The lesson leaves and papers may be received and distributed, and the home study of the lessons continued. The people may thus be kept in touch with the Sunday-school work throughout the long months of the winter, and the school be ready for early reorganization without the loss of a single lesson in the spring.

POSSIBILITIES.

But a still larger field opens before us. For every one of our 262,404 scholars in our schools it ought not to be difficult to secure at least one Home student of the lesson. But there are still larger possibilities. The 278,064 members of our church must be multiplied by five to reach the number of those who return themselves in the official census of the country as the adherents of Methodism and dependent upon it for their religious instruction. Of these we reach less than one-fifth in our Sunday-schools. What are we doing for the special training in the Word of God, the foundation of all religion and morality, for the other four-fifths?

Here is grand work for our schools,

* These requisites are furnished free for introduction by the Methodist Book-Rooms, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.

* There are, of course, at many of these appointments Union Sunday-schools.

our Epworth Leagues, and churches. What an impulse a general effort for Bible teaching would give to every department of church life and church work! How it would fill our schools, enlarge our congregations, increase the intelligence and piety of our people! Let the watch-word for the opening year of the new century be a million souls taught in the Word of God, as well as a million dollars raised for aggressive Christian work.

WHAT OUR MINISTERS SAY ABOUT IT.

"The Home Department in connection with our Sabbath-school work has proved a success, I am led to believe, in every way. The Sabbath-school superintendent appears to be very strongly in its favour."

H. E. Hill, Freelton, Ont.

"We have found the people in their homes, almost without exception, pleased to take up the lessons, and I don't believe any of the officers of the school question the value of the Home Department."

A. T. Jones, Windsor Mills, P.Q.

"We have seventy-five homes reading in the Home Department. The work is well read, much appreciated, and parents say it is a great help in preparing the children for Sunday-school. We have an excellent lady canvasser for this work."

E. E. Scott, Avenue Road, Toronto.

"With yourself I take a great interest in the Home Department. I look upon it as a very important part of our Sunday-school work. In towns and cities it is peculiarly effective, not only in bringing the parents in touch with the Sunday-school, but also in bringing families into touch with the pastor. I find difficulty in getting suitable persons to take charge of it, but am sure, if well conducted, of its efficiency."

Geo. W. Fisher, Fairville, N.B.

"The Home Department commends itself by its intrinsic worth, the breadth of the scheme, the excellent arrangement, and while only slightly known here, its influence is very positive. It is a grand movement in building the kingdom of Christ."

Carl Allum, Mattawa, Ont.

"I am glad that you are pushing the Home Department. It is very successful with us. We would not on any account give it up. It reacts on the school and public service. It promotes the study of the Word, and there is nothing more needful to-day in our churches."

W. J. Crothers, Napanee, Ont.

"The Home Department of the Iroquois Sunday-school not only has given help and satisfaction to many who, for various reasons, are unable to attend the school, but the systematic canvass of the families for this department has resulted in securing an increased attendance of children and young people at the school."

J. Tallman Pitcher.

"At two of the appointments on this circuit the Home Department is doing a good work. (1) It helps to keep our people in touch with the International Sunday-school Lesson. (2) We think it brings Gospel truth into the homes of our people. Thus many are interested by this means in other church work."

J. J. Liddy, Keene, Ont.

"There are about twenty-one studying in the Home Department of the Sunday-school on this circuit. Officers in our schools should go out to those who cannot or will not attend Sabbath-school and organize the Home Department, especially where the schools are not held in connection with the public service. Thus many who are carelessly drifting will be led to a correct study of Scripture, and to the wise improvement of the Lord's Day. We had an increase in this Department last year in Montreal Conference of 601."

W. Henderson, Cowansville, P.Q.

"When I came here in June last I found about 35 names enrolled in the Home Department. I gave some attention to it, and have now, I think, over 100 names enrolled in this department. It is self-sustaining, and we hope it will be more than that in the near future. The attendance at the Sunday-school has increased by this."

H. W. Totten, Warkworth, Ont.

"Our Home Department is very successful. We have 106 members in thirteen classes. Great interest is taken in the study of the lessons by many of the members. I note one in particular who is 'shut in,' and finds great comfort in the Word, and from the visits of the person in charge. It is a most encouraging feature of our school work."

Job Shenton, St. John, N.B.

"We have been conducting a Home Department for about a year, and with considerable success, adding to the numbers and general interest of the school. We have found great possibilities of help to our general church work in this Department. Believing we have been divinely led into this work and praying for its enlargement and prosperity."

D. Chapman, Woodstock, N.B.

"I look upon the Home Department of the Sunday-school as one of great value. It virtually completes the whole plan, and reaches all who cannot attend Sunday-school. It is working well in Vienna and neighbourhood. One young mother found her first convictions in this way, and soon died of consumption of the lungs. She frequently expressed her gratitude to the committee."

A. S. Edwards, Vienna, Ont.

"I am a strong believer in that important branch of Sunday-school work. I have known it created such interest in Sunday-schools where none existed as to lead to the organization of one. It has kept up interest in the lessons through the winter in homes too far from the town church to attend a Sunday-school. It has been of very special benefit to the sick, aged, and necessarily shut in; and has been more than once the first influence to draw to the Sunday-school some who appeared unlikely ever to attend. By the varied influences it brings, in carrying on its parts, it has won souls to God."

W. Lawson, Richibucto, N.B.

"There has been quite an interest awakened among many who did not attend Sunday-school, or even church. Some have come into the general school, and one or two have commenced to come occasionally to church. It has more than paid its way financially from the first. To our workers and Sunday-school officers there has come great encouragement."

E. Middleton, London, Ont.

"The Home Department of the Sunday-school is in operation at two schools on this Circuit. Three good results we believe have been noticed: Some people who never before regularly opened the Bible are brought into sympathy with the study of it; the visitors are given opportunities and access to families who before were not in active sympathy with the church; the pastor has a valuable helper in prosecuting personal work."

George Stafford, Barnston, Que.

"The Home Department is a great success in Deseronto. We have about 200 studying the Sunday-school lessons in that department. Increased attendance in the general school, increased attendance at church, the reading of the Scriptures in homes in which the Bible was never read, and the conversion, at special meetings, of some who hitherto never attended church, are some of the results we note of the Home Department."

G. H. C.

"The Home Department in connection with the Central church Sunday-school is in a very flourishing condition, thanks to Mr. Geo. M. Lee and his Sunday-school class of young ladies. During the past year the membership has gone

from less than forty up to about one hundred and fifty. I find that it affords opportunity for Christian work and conversation on the Book, and also increases the interest in the church and Sunday-school on the part of the people. The regular visitations bring pastor and church into more sympathetic fellowship with the community."

Geo. J. Bishop, 14 Park Road.

"In the points where it has been honestly used by members, it has been a great success. Our Home Class would be flourishing all along the line if our superintendent of this work had not left us a short time ago, and no successor has yet been found. He was active and earnest, and we want another of the same stamp. The right sort of superintendent is the only thing necessary to make this Department successful anywhere."

A. E. Lavell, Walsh, Ont.

"I regard the Home Department of the Sunday-school as most important. It causes many parents to study the Word of God who would not be likely to do so very much. It keeps them in touch with the Sunday-school proper and places them in a better position to intelligently help their children in the preparation of the Sunday-school lesson, while the visits made by those who have charge of this work wonderfully aid in securing the presence of those they visit at the regular church service in the evening."

T. E. Bartley, Collingwood, Ont.

"In my experience, the necessity for a successful Home Department is a good visitor or visitors. Given them, and I have yet to see an unsuccessful Home Department. In this church we are reorganizing this department of our Sunday-school at present, and hope by a careful canvass to largely increase our numbers. At our Sunday-school anniversary services on the 20th ult., we have decided to bring the advantage and needs of this department most prominently before our congregation."

P. L. Richardson, Montreal.

WHAT OUR LAY FRIENDS SAY OF IT.

"The Home Department of Centenary Sabbath-school has proved a grand success, being the most successful department last year in the school."

W. A. Brown, St. John, N.B.

Mr. A. J. Donly, superintendent of the Simcoe Sunday-school, writes: "Our Home Department is well looked after. We have a regular attendance at our school of about 160, besides a Home Department numbering 70."

"We have a membership of forty-seven, nearly all of whom study the International Lessons regularly. We find the parents taking more interest in the school and the lessons of the children."

M. A. Belcher, Halifax, N.S.

"We believe that three or four consecrated men or women at each appointment are sufficient for this work. Put it on them. Let them feel the weight, and they will work. We mean to go on trusting in the Holy Spirit. He will help us."

Jno. H. Wright, Heathton, Que.

"This department of Christian work is, I believe, of great importance. It should have the sympathy and hearty co-operation of both pastor and Sunday-school superintendent. It helps both Sunday-school and church in their efforts for winning souls to Christ, and the advancement of his cause."

"Vera."

"At Stanstead we now have eighty-five, and hope to get more. The interest in the study is increasing. It proves a strong bond of union with the church and seems to establish a good understanding everywhere. The work is full of pleasant surprises and encouragements, and we trust it is leading us to the solution of some problems."

Jessie Colby, Stanstead, Que.

"Our Home Department of the Sunday-school has been helpful in every way. It has increased the interest in the school. Parents take more interest in the lessons, and many have come to the school, bringing their children with them, and thus the school is better attended, collections increased, the lessons better known, and the school and home greatly benefited by the Home Department."

H. Thomas, Castleton, Ont.

"We organized a Home Department extension of our Sabbath-school over three years ago. I know for a certainty that the Bible is the familiar book in more than one home now, where formerly it was seldom read. It has drawn the people in the community nearer one another. The visitors enter homes they never used to, and that in itself not only helps the visited, but the visitor as well. As I see it, there is no agency in connection with our church work that can help the pastor as well."

May Maud Canfield, Odelltown, Ont.

"We are working at a Home Department. It goes very slow. Why? Because we work slow. But it goes fast, very fast, for the amount of work it gets. It is a great drawing card for our Sunday-school. When I ask a parent about joining the Home Department, they often say, 'Well, the children can go to Sunday-school.' Then I have had the parent to come. I find it a very fine way for us to introduce the subject of Christ into a home. Our Home Department is small. We propose continuing and growing."

J. W. Freeman, Freeman, Ont.

"We have a Home Department with a membership of one hundred and thirty-three. Many of the members appreciate it very much. It has increased the attendance upon the main school and on the services of the church, and has promoted the systematic study of the Bible. It has been a success financially, the members having contributed quite largely towards the support of the school. A mother told of it being a help to her in helping the children prepare their lessons for Sunday-school. Another member told of it being the only connection she has with the church, she being an invalid, and how much she enjoys it and the quarterly visits of the visitors."

Mabel M. Craig, St. John, N.B.

"Bible study is now more enjoyed. Some have dropped out, yet it is more from the visitors than the members. Have visitors in sympathy with the work, not afraid of roads or of asking people. The older people have more sympathy with the school when they become members of it themselves. Parents who belonged to it have become regular attendants of the school now."

David James, Thornhill, Ont.

"We have had the Home Department in our school now for three or four years. It tends to create a general interest in Sunday-school work and increases the attendance. We have a complete list of men, women and children belonging to the congregation and know just who we have yet to look up and win to the study of the Scriptures. Anything on ways of working will be of help to the visitors."

T. H. Patrick, Souris, Man.

"We are in our third year in the Home Department. We have about sixty members. Our membership has been kept up, although the work is in the midst of a migratory people. We give the members the privilege of using the library. By means of this important work we come in contact with many persons whom we can sympathize with and help in their spiritual life. An opportunity is often given to direct in the choice of books, and the Bible especially."

Benj. Highfield, Parkdale, Toronto.

"We have completed our third year in the Home Department. Average number reported as studying the lesson each quarter: 1895, 87; for 1896, 105; for 1897, 100. We endeavour to embrace all members of the church, and try to follow up ex-scholars of the Bible

class, so we extend our operations into the United States, and Toronto, where the visitor of the Home Department has not reached. We believe there is no branch of church work yields better returns for labour bestowed."

Geo. Flint, Jun., Stouffville, Ont.

"The Home Class has been the means of starting those two new schools. The members have been visited quarterly or written to. The work is very helpful. It gives a chance to speak to those who hardly ever get out to service of any kind. I think it is a department of Sunday-school work that should be taken up in connection with almost every school. The Home Class Department is the next thing to the Sunday-school itself, in the good done to those who join it."

W. L. White, Melgund, Man.

HOW TO CONDUCT THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

The following suggestions, by the Rev. Dr. Worden, of the Presbyterian Board of Publication, Philadelphia, are among the best that we have seen:

WHAT IS THE HOME DEPARTMENT OF THE SABBATH-SCHOOL?

The Home Department of the Sabbath-school is that branch of the school which systematizes and develops the weekly study of the lessons at home by those who for any reason are unable to attend the sessions of the Sabbath-school.

WHAT IS THE STANDING OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT?

The same as the Primary, Intermediate or Adult Department of the Sabbath-school. The Home Department members are to be placed upon the roll of the school, and are to have the rights, privileges, and fellowship of the members of the Sabbath-school. The Home Department visitors are to be considered as regular teachers in the Sabbath-school.

WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF MEMBERS OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT?

To study the Sabbath-school lessons at least half an hour each week as individuals, or in family or neighbourhood classes, to keep an accurate record of the study of each week, and to report such study to the Visitor of the Home Department; and to make a weekly offering.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT?

"Membership, enrolment, recognition, and fellowship, visitation and supervision by a Visitor, direct relationship with the pastor; the supply of Lesson Helps; free use of the library, and a cordial invitation to attend all church and Sabbath-school services, picnics, entertainments, and social gatherings. Home Department members are also invited to all the religious privileges of the church (communion, of course, excepted), and are expected to visit, from time to time, the regular services of the school, and to become acquainted with its religious life and interested in its Sabbath and week-day services. They should receive, as do other members, the religious visitation of pastors and officers, and have their sympathy and fellowship, watch and care, especially in times of joy or sorrow. They should look upon the church with which they are connected as their church, its pastor and officers as their pastor and officers, and feel that they are in as full fellowship with its social and religious life as though they were members of its congregation."—Dr. W. A. Duncan.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ADVANTAGES OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT?

1. In addition to the above enumerated privileges, this Department, by its system of association and visitation, links the members of the Home Department with the Sabbath-school itself in the blessed labour of studying the Word of God. It brings the sweet and hallowed influences of Bible Christianity to sanctify the tender ties and love of home life.

2. It gains the co-operation of many parents in preparing their children for Sabbath-school.

3. It brings earnest Christian workers in personal contact with many who are now neglecting the Bible and Christ's

salvation, and, it may be, with many of God's poor.

4. It carries the unspeakable joy of Christian fellowship and associated study of God's Word to many Christians who are now shut in from church and Sabbath-school.

5. It increases the membership of the Sabbath-school.

6. It may add to the missionary offerings of the school.

7. It may prove a powerful and practical means of reaching the unchurched masses with the Gospel of Jesus.

Every Sabbath-School should have a Home Department.

WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT VISITOR?

1. Realize that God your Saviour has called you to this work. Therefore, feed the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you an overseer.

2. Be the friend of each member of your Home Class, faithful and constant. Be genuinely interested in all that concerns them. Count nothing of theirs indifferent to you.

3. Pray daily for each of your members by name.

4. Be careful not to gossip concerning your work or your members. Never reveal things which should be confidential between your members and yourself.

5. Visit your members at least once each quarter, gathering their Quarterly Report envelopes and personally supplying them with the Lesson Helps for the coming quarter.

6. Encourage your members to notify you concerning any sickness in their homes, and when so notified promptly visit them. Make the best of all opportunities for speaking a word for Christ and his service.

7. Watch your members' growing interest in the study of the Bible. As far as possible induce them to attend the Sabbath-school.

8. Encourage them to visit the Sabbath-school, if they cannot regularly attend it; to take books from its library; to join the Sabbath-school on all social occasions, and at Christmas, Easter, Children's Day, etc.

9. Talk with the pastor and the superintendent of the Home Department concerning cases of particular interest among your members. If any of your members would welcome a pastoral visit, invite the pastor to call upon them.

10. Cherish a heart at all times ready to respond to the inquiry from any member, What must I do to be saved? Be content with nothing short of the genuine conversion of each unconverted member and the gracious upbuilding in Christ of every converted member.

WHAT CAN THE HOME DEPARTMENT DO FOR SABBATH-SCHOOLS CLOSED DURING WINTER OR SUMMER?

When a school for any reason is closed during either winter or summer, it may be temporarily organized into a Home Department, the Superintendent having charge, the teachers acting as Visitors, and the scholars as members. All the arrangements, down to details, ought to be made before the school is closed. It will be helpful to observe the following suggestions:

1. During such times of closing, the Visitors (formerly teachers) ought to be especially careful that the Lesson Helps and Report Envelopes are regularly furnished to every member.

2. Each Visitor should faithfully encourage the members by writing them letters urging them to persevere in their Bible study.

3. The Visitor ought not to fail to secure regular reports from each member.

WHAT CAN THE HOME DEPARTMENT DO FOR COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THERE IS NO SABBATH-SCHOOL?

Where from any cause it is impracticable to organize and conduct a Sabbath-school, a Christian man or woman can organize a Home Department. Bible study, with all its attendant blessings, may thus be brought to isolated homes and lonely hearts. In course of time a Sabbath-school may be established as the result of this work.

How can a Home Department be Started in any Sabbath-School?

The pastor and Sunday-school Committee, being convinced of the desirability of having this work organized in their

Sabbath-school, adopt it and authorize the organization of a Home Department.

The next step is the appointment of a Superintendent of the Home Department. The person so appointed should be an earnest and intelligent believer in the work, one who can be relied upon to start it and carry it on to success.

This Superintendent can make a list by territorial districts of the names and addresses of all the members of the church and congregation who do not attend Sabbath-school. (If possible a sketch map of the congregation can be made, marking the residences of the members.) Subdivide this into districts, each containing twenty-five families or less.

Then secure the Visitors. This is the most important part of the work of organization. Hold a meeting of the Visitors appointed for prayer and conference. Fully explain at this meeting the Home Department and the duties of Visitors.

The pastor can then present the nature, methods, and advantage of this work from the pulpit on the Sabbath. It will be very helpful on the same Sabbath to have placed in every pew a copy of this leaflet.

On the week following the Visitors can be sent out to canvass for members, reporting within two weeks at a similar meeting their success in securing members of the Home Department.

HOW IS THE CANVASS FOR MEMBERS OF A HOME DEPARTMENT TO BE MADE?

By the Visitors appointed by the Department prayerfully and carefully visiting in the entire congregation all who will not or cannot attend Sabbath-school, and cordially inviting them to join the Home Department. An accurate record should be kept of this canvass. After this canvass has been made the entire congregation can be divided into small districts, composed of not over twenty-five families, to each of which districts a permanent Visitor can be assigned.

HOME DEPARTMENT SUPPLIES.

Our new Quarterly will be found just the thing to meet the needs of the Home Department. Indeed, it was specially to meet those needs, as well as those of the senior classes in the schools, that it was prepared. We have arranged for a complete supply of the membership cards, forms of application, visitors' list, and the like. The list and prices are as follows:

Membership Cards	$0 50	per 100 net
Quarterly Report Envelopes	0 40	" " "
Canvassers' Report	1 00	" " "
Descriptive Leaflet	0 50	" " "
Class Record	0 02	each.
Senior Lesson Quarterly	0 05	per quarter

SECRETARY CREWS ON THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

The Rev. A. C. Crews, Secretary of the Sunday-school and Epworth League Board, writes:

"The Home Department is not intended to interfere with, or take the place of actual attendance on the Sunday-school session. Its aim is rather to interest in the study of the Bible those who cannot conveniently attend. Invalids, busy mothers, travellers, those living remote from a place of worship, etc., have by means of this department been brought into living sympathy with the Sunday-school, and have been personally benefited not a little. In many homes parents have greatly helped their children by spending half an hour with them in the study of the lesson each week.

"The success of this department, wherever it has been introduced, has been such as to warrant its being pushed energetically. It is an indispensable adjunct to the fully equipped school."

THE WESLEYAN ON THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

In a vigorous article in The Wesleyan on this subject the Rev. George Bond writes:

"The Home Department is really the extension of the work of the Sunday-school into the home. It is the enlistment of those members of the family who do not attend the school in the study of the Bible as it is carried on

there, the same lesson being taken and the same helps used.

"What an impetus it would give to the intellectual and spiritual life of our communities if each of our schools were to organize a Home Department on the lines suggested. And why not? There is no cumbersome machinery, there are no hard-and-fast lines, there is no such setting of lessons as to make the course impossible to busy people. On the contrary, everything is so simple, so adaptable to every place and circumstance and so easily and speedily possible of arrangement, that in a month or less every Sunday-school throughout the Connexion might have a Home Department in full swing, to the very great stimulus of its own interior work and to the very great advantage of the church and community with which it is connected."

THE GROWTH OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

It is very gratifying to notice the rapid multiplication of Home Department Sunday-schools throughout our connexion. In a list which cannot be at all complete we find 111 of such schools. The largest attendance is at Deseronto, with an enrolled membership of 250, the next is Mitchell, with 228, the next Queen Street, Kingston, with 150, the next Portland, St. John, N.B., with 149, the next St. John's West, Newfoundland, with 148, the next Galt, with 136. In Newdale, Manitoba, is one with 100 members. That it is not necessary to have such a large membership to carry on such successful Home Departments is shown by a number of schools of twenty or under, one or two even having as few as four members. We would be glad to hear from these schools as to their success of management. In this list of Home Department schools, Montreal Conference comes first, having 33, next New Brunswick Conference, having 19, next Hamilton Conference, having 16, next Toronto Conference, having 14, next London, Bay of Quinte, and Manitoba Conferences, having each 8, next Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Conferences, having each 2, and next British Columbia Conference, having one.

ESSENTIALS TO THE SUCCESS OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

1. About four years ago we started it, and it has been kept in operation ever since. It has not grown as fast as we expected, nevertheless it is in a healthy condition, and it is developing in interest in two directions, (a) in Bible study, and (b) in Sunday-school affairs. We have only tried one local circle, at an outlying point, and with considerable satisfaction. Other circles may follow. The Department involves leadership, kind, considerate, persevering leadership, and it is not always available.

2. The success of the Home Department largely, yes, mainly, depends upon the visitors. The visitors have been, with us, mostly our Sunday-school teachers, and these, as members of the various church anxiliaries, are very much burdened indeed. The Home Department ought to be a church institution, and one of the special features of church relationship. The church members, and church adherents, do not know enough about each other, and so they should visit each other more, upon a systematic plan, and incidentally they could help along the Home Department by making its lessons the subject of their conversation. A reading church, and a church impresssed by its reading, is a progressive church. The Home Department of the Sunday-school should really be in the church's care, and be looked after by the church, by those not otherwise occupied on Sunday, as the Sunday-school workers have too much to do.

3. Above all, the Home Department needs spirit. Nothing can prosper without enthusiasm. Where the church members are vigorously canvassed, where the appeals to them are backed by fervour, there is a ready response, and in time, in this way, the Home Department should embrace the church's entire membership.

Robert Meek, Kingston, Ont.

HOW IT WORKS IN OTTAWA.

One year ago we started the Home Class Department in our school. The lack of co-operation on the part of the parents and friends with the work of the school led me to think seriously about adopting the Home Class as a point of contact. Accordingly, I brought the matter up before our teachers and officers, and asked that the class be adopted and a superintendent appointed to look after the work, which was done.

I then secured from our pastor the names and addresses of all the members of the church, divided the circuit evenly into three sections, appointed two visitors for each section, and had the superintendent of the class visit each person whose address we received from our pastor, explain the workings of the class and leave a card and envelope which was called for by the visitors. In this way every member of the church was reached, and thirty members of the Home Department secured.

The work advanced well until the fourth quarter of 1897, when the superintendent of the Department, Mr. S. Day, was called suddenly to join the church triumphant. This caused a delay in the running of the Department until another superintendent could be appointed and get acquainted with the work. The class is now working admirably and accomplishing the very end for which it was established, namely, encouraging the home study of the lessons by the parents and those who cannot possibly attend, thus bringing the home and the school into closer fellowship. The advantage is also noticed in the increased attendance at our regular Sunday-school session.

J. Oberein Lough.
Superintendent West Methodist Church Sunday-school, Ottawa.

THE HOME DEPARTMENT IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

Starting a little over three years ago, we now have one hundred and fifty members and nine visitors. We think about twelve members sufficient for one visitor. At present we are rather short of the latter. We found most of the persons asked quite willing to join, and when once in they seldom wish to leave. Some have removed, and a few have gone to that bourne from which no traveller returns. On one occasion, all the members were asked to meet the officers and teachers of the Sunday-school. Light refreshments were provided, and a very pleasant evening was spent. We think that a gathering of this sort among the members, visitors and friends, say once a year, would be productive of much good, socially and spiritually. Once a month the visitors meet for an hour at one of their homes for devotional service. The work is talked over and much good is received. Some members have been led to become teachers in the Sunday-school, thereby extending the good work to the younger folk. To those who are detained at home the Department is a great blessing, as it keeps them in touch with the school work and the church. The Department gives its members an interest in Bible study that they may not otherwise have. It stimulates them to 'search the Scriptures' for the eternal truths contained therein, and who can tell how far-reaching will be the results.

Georgina E. Sannways, St. John's, Nfld.

THE HOME DEPARTMENT IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The Halifax County Sunday-school Association realizes the importance of this branch of the work and wishes that every Sunday-school superintendent would recognize its value and add this feature to his school. The Home Department has been a topic on the programme of several of our quarterly public meetings of the schools of Halifax and Dartmouth District, and we were glad to note that at the last of these the questions in the question box were largely on this subject.

At our County Convention in October, 1897, a superintendent of Home Department work was appointed, who, with his committee, is laying the matter before every one of the hundred schools in our county connected with our association.

At one of our monthly executive meetings a superintendent reported that his Sunday-school, closed for three months during the winter, had been organized into a Home Department, and that all were to be called together at the close of the quarter for a review. That was not a Methodist school, but these you will be glad to know, will make a better showing this year.—Wesleyan.

REPORT OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT OF THE STOUFFVILLE SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

We have completed our third year in this work. The average number reported each quarter as studying the Sunday-school lessons in the home classes of 1895 was 87; 1896, 105; 1897, 100. We have a strong conviction that every member of the church should belong either to the Sunday-school proper or the home class, and those who are not church members, that they should study this "Word," which is able to make them wise unto salvation. The population within the bounds covered by our Markham township Sunday-school Association is 7,500; the Sunday-schools report an attendance of about 2,000. Allowing 1,000 for the too young or extreme aged leaves 4,500 as the home class field, quite a number of whom already study the Sunday-school lesson, but a thorough canvass reveals how small that number is. What a vast field does the home class work bring before us when there was only one school last year reported as engaged in it. If it is good for the child to study the Sunday-school lesson, it is just as good for the parent.

Geo. Flint, Jr.

THE HOME DEPARTMENT AT DUNBOYNE.

Mr. John Dugsdale, superintendent of our Sunday-school at Dunboyne, writes: "We commenced the Home Department in 1894, and have carried it on since with good success. I think ladies are best for visitors, as they have more sympathy with mothers, and have greater success in inducing parents to take an interest.

"We divided our appointment into districts, and the visitors go each quarter with the quarterlies, cards, etc., but they never ask for money. We leave that entirely to the generosity of the members, and take just what we get. I find that the Home Department reaches some who never attend church. It is just the thing for invalids, and mothers with young families.

"For some time I was greatly troubled with the verse, 'Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in.' I could not see how I could do better than I was doing until I heard of the Home Department, which I started at once, and since then that verse has not bothered me."

HOME BIBLE STUDY.

Being much pleased with Mr. Withrow's timely article in The Witness of March 22 on "Home Bible Study," I thought you would perhaps publish an invalid's unqualified praise of the systematic study of the Bible instituted by the Sunday-school committee and extended towards the members of the Home Department of the Sunday-scho. I have been unable through physi... weakness to attend Sunday-school for a long time, and it gives me great pleasure to study the lesson for the day at home.

The lesson leaflets supplied by the Home Department of the Sunday-school are better adapted for general study. My gracious Master has given me many blessings, the greatest of which is that I am able to read and study his holy Word. I am very thankful to the Sunday-school committee for instituting the system, which deserves more praise than I can give. Canada is higly favoured with Bible privileges, and I earnestly hope this opportunity of getting better acquainted with his holy Word will be improved by all who do not attend Sunday-school.—"Grateful Invalid" in Witness.

FOR THE WORKERS IN THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

God bless the workers every one,
  Inspire their hearts with holy zeal,
As forth they go to young and old,
  Most blessed influence may they feel.
Give power, O Lord! that all may reach—
  With saving grace, the souls they meet;
God's Holy Word set forth and teach,
  The Word that makes life's bitter sweet.

Uprises all the happy years!
  The sacred songs, the earnest prayers;
The loving, pious teacher's words,
  Forgotten half in life's dull cares.
Comes back the love-light to the eye!
  Of weary ones with age bowed low;
The blessed joy of years gone by—
  The Sabbath-school of long ago.

Old age grows young as memory wakes
  Life's fresh sweet interest in the Book,
And nearer, dearer, through each word,
  Recalls the blessed Master's look.
Recalls the blessed words of love,
  The Comforter in childhood's grief;
And age, like youth, now looks above,
  And finds the Comforter still chief.

O rapture of a soul thus brought
  To God through interest in life's past;
Sweet memories bringing back again
  A soul to God! One soul how vast?
Judge of its value when its Lord,
  A world against it, counted nought;
Then workers study well each word,
  A great life work! One soul home brought.

—Isabella, in S. S. Bulletin.

(6)